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## A SYRIAC LEXICOGRAPHICAL TRACT.

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At the meeting of the American Oriental Society in May, 1887, I read a paper on a manuscript of a Syriac Lexicographical treatise belonging to the Union Theological Seminary in New York.<sup>1</sup> It contains the first two of the treatises published by George Hoffmann in his *Opuscula Nestoriana*.<sup>2</sup> I had reference to the first of these two treatises, containing a compilation of lexicographical remarks by 'Nānīšō' of Hadhyabh<sup>3</sup> and Honein bar Ishāq.<sup>4</sup> A description of the MS. will be found in the *Proceedings*.

The text of this treatise as published by Hoffmann is notoriously corrupt in many places. This is the fate of most of the Syriac lexicographical MSS. The scribes did not hesitate to add all sorts of notes, culled from various sources; or to cut out those which, for some reason, were objectionable.<sup>5</sup> Hoffmann's text, in this way, often omits that which gives such treatises as these their peculiar value—the careful Māsoretic notice of the vowel and other diacritical points of a word. As long as the beautiful Syriac Māsora books lie unheeded and unpublished in the libraries of Europe,<sup>6</sup> these compilations and those of later authors are of considerable value. A larger and more careful recension of this treatise of 'Nānīšō' and Honein seems to have been current at one time, which contained all these Māsoretic statements. Hoffmann's text in many places represents the shorter recension.

Part of the larger recension I found in MS. Sachau, No. 72, belonging to the Berlin Royal Library and published at the end of my edition of the Grammar of Eliā of Sōphā.<sup>7</sup> It is interesting to note that the Union Seminary MS. also contains the longer recension. Both these MSS. go back to the same original. Nearly all the additions to Hoffmann's text contained in MS. Sachau 72 are to be found in the Union Seminary MS. Compare with the extracts in Eliā of Sōphā, pp. 60-67, the variants to Hoffmann, pp. 38, 21; 39, 1, 17, 20, 21; 40, 1, 2, 5; 41, 1, etc., cited below.

Some of the explanations given by Honein have also found their way into the Grammar of Eliā of Tīrhān.<sup>8</sup> But a part of those mentioned by Eliā are not to be

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, vol. XIII., p. 134.    <sup>2</sup> Kiel, 1880.    <sup>3</sup> About 660 A. D.    <sup>4</sup> About 860 A. D.

<sup>5</sup> See Hoffmann's *Preface*, p. xiv; Nöldeke, *ZDMG*, xxxv., p. 494.

<sup>6</sup> Gottheil, *Zur Textkritik der P'siṭtā*, Mittheilungen des Akademisch-Orientalischen Vereins zu Berlin, No. 2, 1889, p. 22. Nöldeke, *Literarisches Centralblatt*, 2d March, 1889, col. 297.

<sup>7</sup> *A treatise on Syriac Grammar*, etc., p. 61 seq.

<sup>8</sup> Baethgen, *Syrische Grammatik des Mar Elias von Tīrhan*. Leipzig, 1880, pp. 43-46.

found in the text as published by Hoffmann. Nöldeke supposed<sup>9</sup> that they originally belonged in the text, and his supposition is borne out by their occurrence in the Union Seminary MS.<sup>10</sup> This latter text, however, is by no means a good one. It is full of gaps, many of which I do not hesitate to refer to careless and ignorant scribes. The MS. bears every evidence of having been carelessly written.

The note to p. 10, 11 (Hoffmann) is interesting, as it shows that the quotation is taken from Eusebius. Hoffmann<sup>11</sup> had already compared Lagarde, *Prætermis-sorum Libri duo*, p. 244 seq.

There is another MS. in Berlin containing texts similar to those in the *Opus-cula Nestoriana*,<sup>12</sup> of which I hope to give an account on some other occasion.

Either the writer of some of the additions in the Union Seminary MS., or the author from whose treatise they were taken, must have been an inhabitant of Māḥōzā.<sup>13</sup> In speaking of a certain grammatical form, he says that "the inhabitants of Māḥōzā do not use it, but the people of Hira do." This is interesting for the dialectology of Syriac. If the lexicographers are to be trusted certain words and certain phrases were used only in certain districts of the Syriac writing and speaking world. It is unfortunate that attention has not been directed to these interesting differences. Since Larsow published his excellent little treatise in 1841,<sup>14</sup> with the exception of an article by Duval,<sup>15</sup> nothing has been done in this direction. We shall probably know more about this subject when Duval brings out his promised edition of Bar Bahlūl. For the present, I jot down, from notes made without any view to publication, the names of the places or regions not mentioned by Larsow in which the grammarians and lexicographers note some peculiarity.<sup>16</sup>

Gazīra.....Payne Smith, cols. 26 s. v. ܓܙܝܪܐ ; 1185 s. v. ܓܙܝܪܐ ; 1544 s. v. ܓܙܝܪܐ cf. col. 701.

Babylonians..Payne Smith, col. 701 s. v. ܒܒܝܠܝܐ

Beth Garmai..Payne Smith, cols. 1137 s. v. ܒܝܬ ܓܪܡܝܐ ; 136 s. v. ܒܝܬ ܓܪܡܝܐ

Maišān.....Payne Smith, col. 1414 s. v. ܡܝܫܢܐ ; cf. col. 2098 s. v. ܡܝܫܢܐ<sup>17</sup>

Lebanon.....Payne Smith, col. 2208 s. v. ܠܒܢܢܐ [= Bar 'Ebhrāyā, grammar, I., p. 54,26].

<sup>9</sup> ZDMG, xxxv., p. 494.

<sup>10</sup> The explanations given in Baethgen, pp. 44, 11, 16; 55, 6, are found again in our MS. Cf. also Baethgen, p. 46, 11 with the variants to Hoffmann, p. 38, 22-39, 1, and Nöldeke, *loc cit.*

<sup>11</sup> p. xiv.

<sup>12</sup> Sachau, No. 180, See *Kurzes Verzeichniss*, p. 12.

<sup>13</sup> Proceedings, p. 185.

<sup>14</sup> *De dialectorum linguae Syriacae reliquiis scripsit* Dr. F. Larsow, Berlin, 1841.

<sup>15</sup> *Sur la contrée araméenne, appelée pays supérieur*, etc. Journal Asiatique, Feb.-Mareh, 1884.

<sup>16</sup> A full collection of the words cited by Bar 'Alī and Bar Bahlūl from the Mathlā dhārāmāyē, which Löw has shown (ZDMG, xxxi., p. 535 seq.) not to be identical with our *Kallitāg* and *Damnag*, would also be interesting. To those mentioned by Löw (*loc cit.*) add Payne Smith, 1671, s. v. kebhā; 325, s. v. estōkā; 2690, s. v. s'ar sephthā; 2043, s. v. mūsardā; 2691, s. v. sa'rā sūmākā, where "dhārāmāyē" must be added; 1716, s. v. kūšū; 2641, s. v. salwā.

<sup>17</sup> Nöldeke, *Mandäische Grammatik*, p. 27. Lowe, *The Fragment of Talmud Babli P'sachim*, p. 8.



























